

From Dr. E.J. Zita
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19 July 2017 (updated from 17 July 2017)

To whom it may concern:

My constituents, Zahid and Ann Chaudry, have contacted me about a troubling situation. Mr. Chaudry is a disabled US veteran whose attempts to gain US Citizenship have been delayed. I have known the Chaudrys for several years, and I know them to be valuable community members. They volunteer with local veterans organizations and give generously to their community in many ways.

For example, last year, Mr. Chaudry aided us when there was a public outcry about the possibility of military cargo shipments through the Port of Olympia. When we shipped military cargo in 2007-2008, as an alternate strategic port for Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), protestors with different perspectives clashed with each other. Heavy law enforcement was required to move the cargo, protect people, and try to keep public peace. People were injured. Law enforcement and legal expenses for the City of Olympia, the Port, and others are approaching \$1 M. Some cases are yet unresolved, and our community bears scars of that conflict.

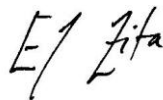
In 2016, facing similar prospects, Mr. Chaudry and his Veterans for Peace helped us. Together, we facilitated respectful Military Cargo Listening Sessions for the public. People with different perspectives communicated instead of clashing. I credit this outreach with keeping peace at the Port of Olympia, in marked contrast to previous experiences.

I know Zahid to be a kind man of high moral character. As the spouse of 23 year Army veteran, and the child of a DoD family, I am honored to count Zahid and Ann my friends.

Granting citizenship to Mr. Chaudry will benefit our community, his family, and the United States.

I encourage prompt award of citizenship for Mr. Chaudry.

Sincerely, Dr. Zita



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N.B.: My statements represent my own perspectives, not necessarily those of the Port of Olympia.